water bodies in the forests has caused severe water problems for animals; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to provide water to animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of steps taken to prevent forest fires in Nagarhole National Park and Bandipur Tiger Reserve are:

(i) Existing firelines have been maintained by reclearing the undergrowth and burning the debris.

(ii) Fire watchers have been employed during the fire season to control any fire incidences immediately.

(iii) Fire watching towers have been constructed at the elevated places, to locate the forest fire if any and to combat it immediately.

(iv) Communication facilities and vehicles for transport of staff to the spot are also provided in cases of any forest fire noticed.

(b) and (c) These areas have received some showers recently which has improved the water situation considerably.

Coastal regulatory zone

2817. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) came in force in early 1991, in order to protect most fragile eco-systems of India;

(b) whether Government now propose to allow non-polluting and service industries within the CRZ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that environmentalists have urged Government not to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within CRZs, thereby diluting the difference between inland industrial development and coastal development;

(d) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what safeguards have been taken to keep Indian coasts beautiful?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification was issued on 19th February, 1991 for protecting and conserving the coastal environment of the country.

(b) to (d) Government has issued a Draft Notification on 11th January, 2002, inviting objections/suggestions from all concerned on the proposed amendments which *inter-alia* include setting up of non polluting industries in the field of information technology and other service industries in the CRZ-III areas of notified Special Economic Zones. Comments/objections have been received both for and against the proposed amendments which would need to be examined before finalizing the notification.

(e) Regulation of developmental activities in the coastal areas as provided in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991, *inter-alia*, helps in preserving the natural beauty of the India's coastal areas.

Wildlife traffic control cell

†2818. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wildlife traffic control cell has been set up;

(b) if so, whether it has been established on the basis of recommendations of a Committee constituted in August, 1994;

(c) if so, within how much time the said Committee had submitted its report, giving the details regarding the areas of the country visited by that Committee; and

(d) what would be the main functions of the said cell?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.